

Indiana Department of Correction Hosts the 19th Annual Correctional Accreditation Managers' (CAMA) Conference

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J.David Donahue, Commissioner



Indianapolis, Indiana - (May 17, 2006) - The Indiana Department of Correction hosted the 19th Annual Correctional Accreditation Managers' (CAMA) Conference and ACA Hearing from May 12-16. The conference was held at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown and attended by 355 participants from 37 states to share correctional standards and best practices.

On Sunday, May 14, Commissioner J. David Donahue kicked off the event by paying tribute to mothers around the world by sharing several “Mama says” anecdotes which apply to his principles in managing corrections in Indiana.

Mama says,: “...If you always do what you’ve always done, you’ll always get what you’ve always got.”

It is important that we set performance measures, because if your not keeping score your only practicing,” said Commissioner Donahue, quoting Governor Mitch Daniels.

Keynote speaker Richard Stalder, Secretary Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections spoke about Managing Prisons During Times of Crisis. Secretary Stalder thanked everyone for their support in helping fellow correctional employees in Louisiana during the recent Hurricane Katrina crisis.

Breakout sessions for this year's conference were organized into three "tracks": ACA Panel Hearings, Workshops and Accreditation. Topic areas included: Folder Presentation, Medical Standards, Methamphetamine Housing Units, Auditor Refresher Training, Accrediting an Older Facility, Quality Control/Internal Reviews, Use of Green Products, Faith and Character Based-Housing Units After the Audit, Accreditation Requirements Accrediting Parole Agencies, Suicide Prevention, Indiana Re-entry Overview, CAMA Roundtable Chats and Women’s Prison Programs.

“In our business it is easy to keep score; we can achieve this through the ACA accreditation. It is our job to communicate newsworthy events and accreditation is a great accomplishment. There are 37 jurisdictions in attendance today and we all know it takes a huge effort to get accredited,” added Donahue.

Indiana’s “RACE TO CAMA” conference was an excellent opportunity to share information and to learn from each other. The conference days were packed with workshops which provided both training and problem-solving techniques related to accreditation.

“Keynote speakers, breakout sessions and vendor booths made this year's conference the best yet,” said Dora Gorey, President of CAMA. “Everyone had a great time in the city of Indianapolis and we thank the host committee for making this a rewarding event.”

About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department’s home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department’s Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.